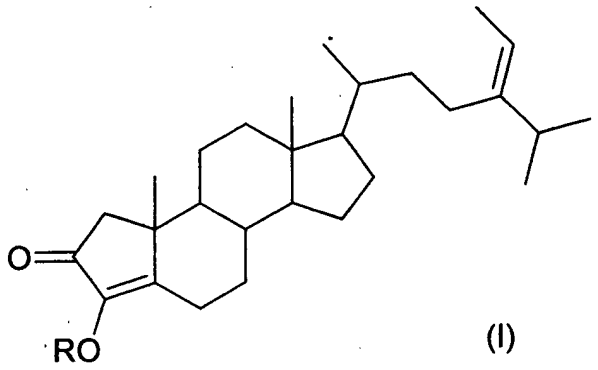
10/567590

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 FEB 2006

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1-Novel steroids possessing the general formula I.



(I)

wherein R is a hydrogen, a lower alkyl radical having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, a lower cycloalkyl radical having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, an aryl radical having from 5 to 10 carbon atoms, an aryl alkyl radical wherein the alkyl radical has from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or an acyl moiety derived from an aliphatic carboxylic acid.

2- The tautomeric forms of the novel steroids according to claim 1

3- Metallic complexes of the compounds of claims 1 wherein R is a hydrogen.

4- Blocking means for the steroids of general formula I according to claim 1, wherein the ketonic function is blocked in the form of a ketal, thioketal, a hemithioketal, an oxime or an optically-active or a racemic (dicarboxyalkylene)ketal

5- A compound according to any of the preceding claims, that is 2-oxo 3-hydroxy 25-ethylidene A- nor cholest- 3- ene.

6- A compound according claim 1, that is 2-oxo 3-acetoxy 25-ethylidene A- nor cholest- 3- ene.

7- A compound according claim 1, that is 2-oxo 3-methoxy 25-ethylidene A- nor cholest- 3- ene.

8- A process for preparing compounds of general formula I according to any of the preceding claims, wherein R is an alkyl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radical, characterized in that the 3-hydroxy derivative is submitted to the action of a diazoalkane in an inert solvent, of a halide or a sulphate or an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aryl alkyl tosylate.

9- A process for preparing compounds of general formula I according to any of the preceding claims, wherein R is an acyl moiety derived from an aliphatic carboxylic, cycloalkylcarboxylic, arylcarboxylic or arylalkylcarboxylic acid, characterized in that the compound for which R is a hydrogen is submitted to the action of an acylating agent in a polar aprotic solvent in the presence of an acylating catalyst.

10- Pharmaceutical compositions containing, as an active principle, at least one compound of general formula I associated or combined with an inert, non toxic, pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or vehicle.

11- Pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 10, wherein the excipient or vehicle is one of those suitable for oral, parenteral, rectal or topical administration.

12- Pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the content in compound of general formula I ranges from 50 ng to 20 mcg per unit dosage.

13- Pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 12, wherein the content in compound of general formula I ranges from 50 ng to 500 ng per unit dosage.

14- Pharmaceutical compositions according to any of the claim 10 to 13, wherein another active compound having a similar or synergic action is further introduced.